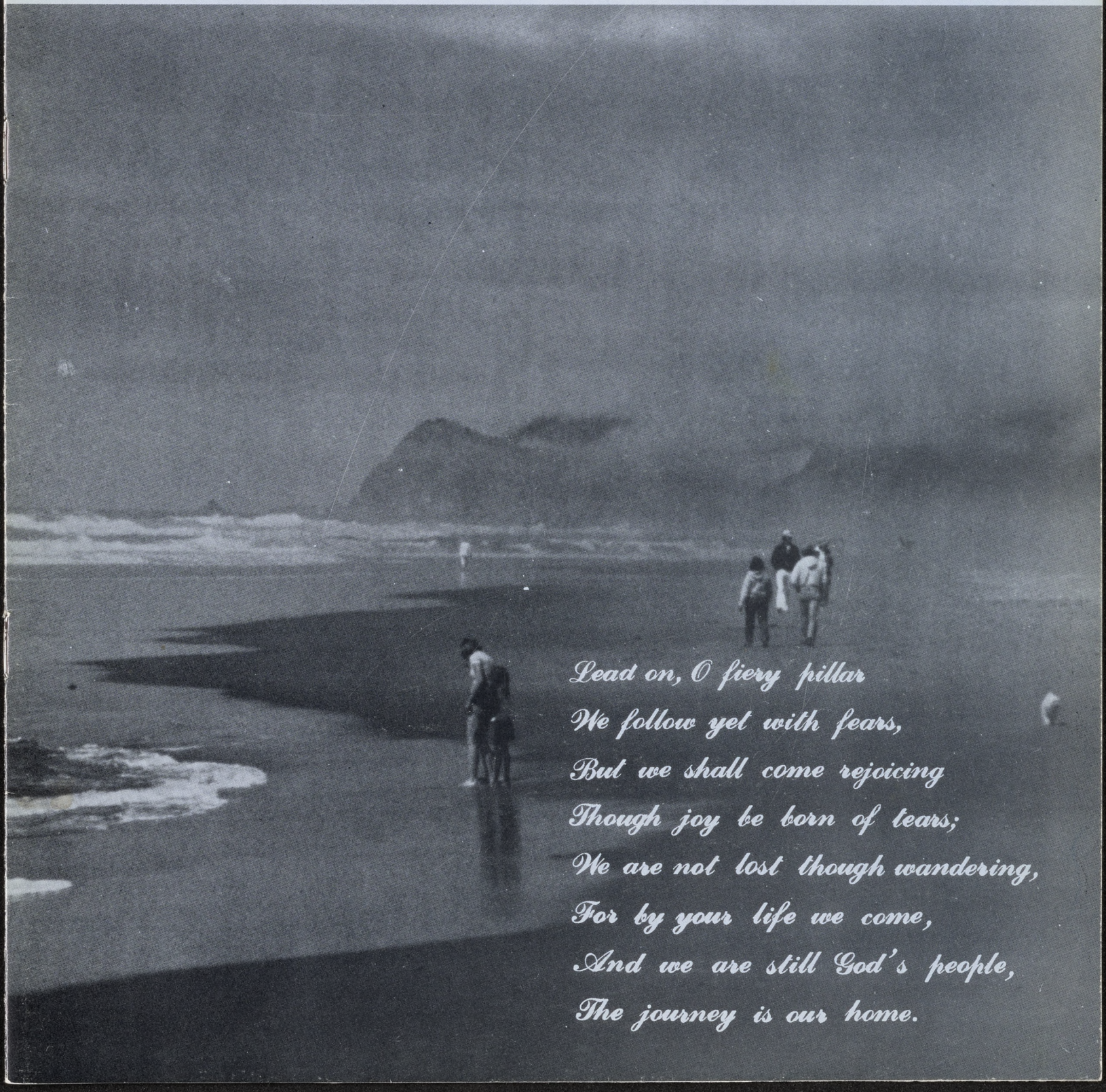
journey

NOVEMBER 1982



Lead on, O fiery pillar
We follow yet with fears,
But we shall come rejoicing
Though joy be born of tears;
We are not lost though wandering,
For by your life we come,
And we are still God's people,
The journey is our home.

journey

COLLECTIVE EDITOR:
Paula J. Schoenwether
COLLECTIVE MEMBERS: Loni Allen, Teri Anglin, Lucia Chappelle, Phil Gallnitz, Hasani Gough, Kurt Kreisler, Rick O'Dell, Ernesto Borges Torres, Frank Zerilli
COLLECTIVE LIAISON: Troy Perry
COLLECTIVE ARTIST: Jean Gralley
COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS:
R. Adam DeBaugh, Kathy Sawyer, Nancy Wilson, Larry Uhrig
Lyrics from "Lead On, O Cloud," by Ruth Duck

JOURNEY is a monthly magazine of UFMCC. The focus of JOURNEY is to provide news and report issues of concern within UFMCC and the Lesbian and Gay community. Contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced or extensively quoted without permission.
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All materials submitted to JOURNEY must be inclusive of gender, age and race. The Editor will modify any language not meeting these criteria.

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from the editor

You have before you a new fellowship magazine called JOURNEY. We in MCC are all on a journey and it is this journey this magazine is about.

We are on the same journey, the one God has called us to walk. But because we are all individuals having very different experiences, sometimes we will interpret this journey differently and use different language to describe the walk. There will be times some of us are asked to run ahead and scout out the territory while others rest or walk more slowly.

Some of us will skip because we have a lot of energy. Reality tells us that we will have to help some of our sisters and brothers along the path, giving them a shoulder to lean on or actually carrying them because they can't make it alone. We will not all be at the same point in this journey at the same time and this is how it should be. But remember, it is the SAME journey.

There are some unique qualities about this magazine. JOURNEY is being produced by a collective who make decisions by consensus and we have never published a magazine this way before.

No longer will only a few people be deciding what will appear in the magazine. With greater input we anticipate giving you the kind of magazine you want, and at the same time offering challenging reading.

The Fellowship Staff makes up the collective. Since the offices are where all information is sent, we have easy access and we are easily accessible to you.

The collective, however, is open to anyone in MCC who wants to participate. This is how it works: COLLECTIVE MEMBER: Those who work on an ongoing basis for JOURNEY. In order to be a member an individual must first work on the entire issue from beginning to end. These people have full voting priviledges (although we do not vote). COLLECTIVE WRITER: A person who regularly writes for the magazine. COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTOR: This changes from issue to issue depending on who is writing. COLLECTIVE ARTIST: A person who regularly does graphics or cartoons. COLLECTIVE PHOTOGRAPHER: Those people who regularly take photographs.

This collective and this magazine were called into being by the Board of Elders to replace IN UNITY. We thank IN UNITY and all of its editors for serving us for so many years.

The focus of JOURNEY will be news and issues of concern in UFMCC and in the Lesbian/Gay community. That means when we cover issues of concern there will be differing opinions and the JOURNEY collective is committed to giving you articles covering as many sides of an issue as is necessary. We will do everything HUMANLY possible to be fair and to be open. We trust you will do the same.

We'll probably be experimenting for awhile with layouts and departments while JOURNEY'S personality is created. We need your help, you input, your information and your pictures to do this well.

In this issue you'll find lots of news because we want to give you as much information about our fellowship as we can in 16 pages. See our church classifieds. They are reasonably priced so you can really use them. If your church has a need maybe someone in the fellowship can meet that need.

Take a look at the Fellowship Staff/ JOURNEY Collective. Aren't they competent looking? See Jean Gralley's new cartoon series, "Lifelines" and read about our TV special. Did you know that STI is now SEC- -find out why.

We hope you will like this issue and consider subscribing. Deadlines for articles are the first week of the month to appear in the following issue. If you have an urgent story, call us and we will make every effort to get it in as soon as possible.

We are very excited about our journey and hope you will be also. And, as the song says, "The Journey is our Home."

Paula Schoenwether
Collective Editor

P.S. I forgot two things. First, I used to write under the pseudonym T. Earlye Scott and second, it's good to be back!

Samaritan Education Center

NEW NAME, NEW ROLE
by Lucia Chappelle

Dean, Samaritan Education Center

The students and faculty at Samaritan Education Center's (SEC) Resident College have launched into the 1982/83 school year with an enthusiasm you might not expect after a long vacation. Meanwhile, the Rev. Jeff Pulling has arrived in Hartford, CT, and is finalizing the new Samaritan Extended Studies program.

Last July the Board of Elders changed the name of the Fellowship's educational institition to reflect Samaritan's new role as facilitator of the entire Christian Education program. In order to handle this task and to help ease the administrative workload on the one-person staff in Los Angeles, the Elders also authorized the appointment of a Management Team and agreed that several members of the Team should be Los Angeles area residents. The new appointees are: Keith Apple (San Francisco Bay Area, EXCEL Co-ordinator), Sherre Boothman (Washington, D.C.), Philip Gallnitz (Los Angeles, UFMCC Office Administrator), Pam Rosen (Long Beach, CA), and the Revs. Lucia Chappelle (Los Angeles, Resident College Dean), Jeff Pulling (Hartford, CT, Samaritan Extended Studies Director), and Nancy Wilson (Los Angeles, Resident College Faculty). More members will probably be added after the Team's first meeting, including at least one student representative.

Perhaps the "structural renewal" of SEC accounts for some of the vibrant energy at the Resident College this semester, but certainly it also has to do with the success of the new curriculum we implemented beginning last year.

"I found a lot of stimulating ideas being discussed in classes like the ones I enjoyed most in Seminary," said visiting auditor Rev. Stephen Pieters, a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. "It was a breath of mountain air to feel the excitement about the courses among the students and the teachers."

Two courses from the Sexuality Studies Department have the highest enrollment this semester: "Feminist Theory," taught by the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson is "a laboratory in collective learning related to basic feminist theory;" "The Minister as Sex Educator and Counselor" was designed by the Rev. Ken Martin, who says his pastoral experience has demonstrated to him that professional spiritual counseling with a sex-positive orientation is being pioneered by MCC. Both classes include student clergy from local congregations, Southern California EXCEL Team members, and a growing number of interested laypeople seeking to broaden their understanding of our dynamic faith.

Courses also in progress are "Genesis," "Hebrew," "New Testament Greek," (all by the Rev. Bob Arthur) and "Worship, Rites, and Sacraments" by the Rev. Roger Webb.

Correspondence courses, seminars, and resources materials are now being co-ordinated out of the Hartford Office. Some of Pulling's work has already appeared with "Keeping in Touch." You can write for information about correspondence offerings, seminar availability and fees to: Samaritan Extended Studies, P.O. Box 14622, Hartford, CT 06114.

We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Bob Arthur's long-awaited new book, *Homosexuality and the Conservative Christian*, will be released sometime in October of this year. Proceeds will be divided between the author and SEC. In addition, SEC Publications has a surprise in store for this Christmas: a special edition of an old Fellowship favorite! Don't do all your Christmas shopping until you hear from us!

A number of congregations have responded to Sherre Boothman's request for a monthly donation to SEC. If you haven't yet considered it, remember that even the smallest pledge is more helpful than you know and greatly encouraging in these lean times. Please make all checks payable to "STI" until further notice.

LATE BREAKING BULLETIN:

Samaritan Education Center wishes to profusely thank the Northwest District for their generous donation of $300.

KKK activity escalates

by Hasani Gough
Collective Member

The Ku Klux Klan has long been known as the enemy of all who are not white supremists, Protestant and heterosexual. It is easy to forget that today's estimates of Klan membership stand at 10 - 12,000 people. The work of the Klan goes on.

On September 4, 1982, in Louisville, KY, Bill Wilkinson, the Imperial Wizard of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, spoke at a rally that it is estimated was attended by 300 plus people. The rally was held with the permission of the local school board, at a public high school.

Word came to the Fellowship that MCC Louisville is having problems receiving mail. Rev. Sandy Taylor, pastor, and Rev. Anne Keast, resident clergy, have both actively campaigned against the Klan in preaching and in participation with local anti-Klan groups. Now both Anne and the church are considering having mail boxes in the next State. Over the past several months mail going to MCC Louisville has either not arrived or has arrived opened with the enclosures shredded.

"Oppression is not just a state of mind, it is reality. Be aware as you vote, as you spend your money, of who you are supporting," advises Keast. Holly Near sings, "The safety of our journey depends on unity."

Keast said that one positive thing that came from the Klan rally in Louisville was that many different people were able to pull together and hold a peace rally on the other side of the city.

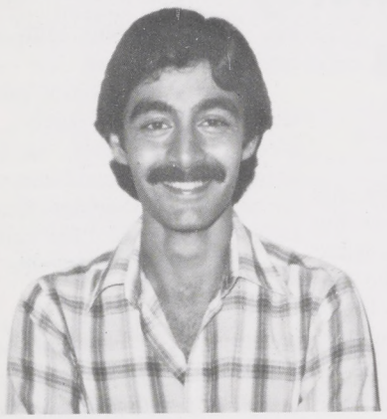
The result of that rally is a new organization called, The Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. That group met for the first time on September 30th, and together began work to deal with specific local issues that the group has with the Jefferson County School Board, while also sharing information in support of others doing anti-Klan work.

On October 19th, in Cincinnati, Ohio, a rally of the Klan was scheduled. Deadline prohibited us from covering that rally.

Please keep our sisters and brothers in Louisville and Cincinnati in your prayers.

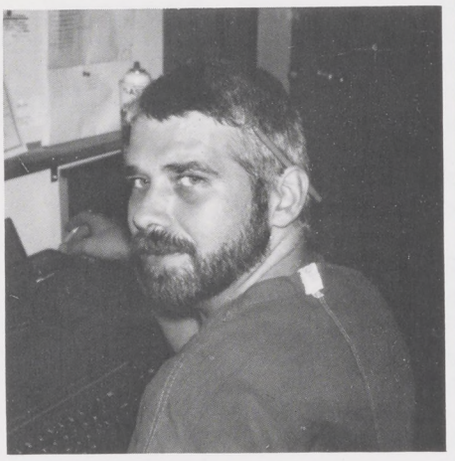
FELLOWSHIP STAFF

Ernesto Borges Torres was born in New York City and had his very early schooling in Puerto Rico. He attended seminary in Holyoke, MA. He taught Old Testament and Bible Geography and while teaching he became a member of ICM Hispana. He served as Exhorter/Student Clergy at ICM Hispana in New York and ICM Latina in California. He plans to take up the ministry in the Hispanic community.



ERNESTO BORGES TORRES

Richard O'Dell first found out about UFMCC in Detroit in 1975. He became a member there and in 1979 moved to Los Angeles. He took a position in the Fellowship Headquarters in 1980 as switchboard operator. Shortly thereafter he was given the position as Church Services Department of Publications Manager. To this date he still holds that position along with the title of Assistant Office Manager. He is currently attending Los Angeles City College where he is studying the graphic arts.



RICK O'DELL

Kurt Kreisler was born in Albuquerque further back than he cares to remember. He entered the Navy after graduating from High School, married and has one son, James. He and his wife were divorced in 1956. He currently lives alone and likes it. He is the typesetter for the Fellowship Offices and is also a published author with six novels to his credit along with numerous short stories and articles. He states that he finds the Fellowship staff to be a "fantastic support group."

KURT KREISLER

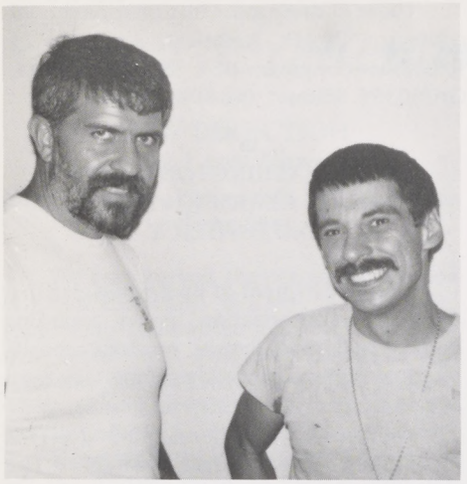
PHIL GALLNITZ AND
PAULA SCHOENWETHER

Philip Gallnitz, the Office Administrator at the Fellowship Offices in Los Angeles, hails from Detroit, Michigan. He attended Lawrence Institute of Technology in Michigan and took two years of Business Administration with a major in Human Resources. He has been involved with UFMCC since 1975 and has served in a number of capacities ranging from Deacon to Church Administrator. He is both loved and respected by the members of his office staff.

Paula Schoenwether left teaching a year ago to move to Los Angeles. Since then she has pursued alternate employment. She did secretarial work for Jeri Ann Harvey, edited IN UNITY, learned to do stained glass and now joins us as editor of JOURNEY. "Growing up in a newspaper family never left my blood. I really like all that is involved to produce a magazine." Schoenwether is a lay worship coordinator and an advocate for strong lay involvement.

LUCIA CHAPPELLE & HONEY BEE

photos by Kurt Kreisler

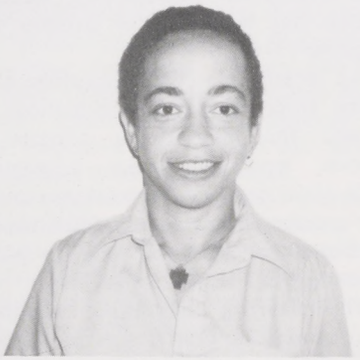


TROY PERRY AND FRANK ZERILLI

Reverend Troy D. Perry is the founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and Moderator of the Board of Elders. His home is in Los Angeles, however, he spends a lot of time traveling around the world visiting Churches in our denomination. He is also working right now, on getting a TV special on M.C.C. produced, entitled, *"God, Gays & The Gospel: This Is Our Story."* He has also started work on his second book which will be published next year by Harper & Row.

Frank Zerilli has been a member of M.C.C. for over 11 years and has worked as Troy Perry's secretary for almost 8 years. Prior to coming to work for the Fellowship he worked as a secretary for the Santa Fe Railroad in Fullerton, California and the New York Hilton in New York City, among others. He has been involved with the Gay liberation movement in New York City and on Long Island in 1970-71 and since 1971 has worked in the movement here in Los Angeles. He is currently a member of the Gay & Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force which works as a liaison between the police and the Gay community.

NANCY WILSON



HASANI GOUGH

Hasani Gough is a graduate of Edgecliff College in Ohio. She has been involved with the Fellowship since 1974 and is now a member and student clergy at DeColores MCC in Los Angeles. She is a member of the Task Force on Third World Outreach and General Conference Coordinator. She first worked at the Fellowship Offices in 1980 as switchboard operator and in 1981 became Case Worker/Job Developer for the Cuban Relief Project. She currently lives with her spouse, Patti Wagner in Highland Park, California.

LONI ALLEN

Loni Allen attended Ottawa University from 1974 to 1977 and was dismissed in 1977 for refusing to discontinue her overt Lesbian life style. She was majoring in the theatrical arts. In Kansas University she studied dance and the martial arts. She left school in 1978 to take up the journey to becoming a clergy person in MCC. She met her spouse, Teri Anglin in 1976 and moved to California in 1980 to attend Samaritan. She is a student clergy at DeColores MCC in Los Angeles.

Teri Anglin was born in Palisade, Colorado and went to school at Ottawa University where she studied Music/Vocal and Theater, working for a major in both. It was there she met her spouse, Loni Allen. She and Loni were both dismissed because of their overt Lesbian lifestyles. She then moved to Kansas City, Missouri where she became involved with MCC. Three years later she and Loni moved to Los Angeles to attend Samaritan. She is now the Fellowship bookkeeper.

TERI ANGLIN

JOURNEY COLLECTIVE

the news

GRNL LAUNCHES AIDS LOBBYING EFFORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) is organizing a major congressional lobbying campaign aimed at getting more federal funding for urgent research on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"There have been more deaths due to (AIDS) than due to toxic shock, swine flu and Legionnaire's Disease combined," according to Dr. James Curran, director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Task Force on AIDS. Sixty-six percent of the cases have been among Gay men, but the disease is by no means limited to Gays or men, according to CDC.

CDC has made AIDS its top priority, according to Curran. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are also beginning to address the problem, but Reaganomics has cut the budgets of both organizations drastically. CDC and NIH are the primary agencies for doing and funding research on national health problems. Nothing conclusive has yet been discovered about the cause, mode of transmission, treatment, or cure of AIDS.

"AIDS may represent a major threat to the health of Americans, and certainly represents a threat to Gay men," said Stan Matek, president of the American Public Health Association. "Federal health researchers have responded to this threat. A major commitment from Congress is *now* needed to further intensive medical research to define, diagnose, and control this syndrome.

Congress is now drafting an appropriations bill which will determine Fiscal Year 1983 funding levels for all federal agencies, including CDC and NIH. CDC will spend $2.5 million in Fiscal Year 1982 on AIDS research (one percent of its $202 billion budget).

In response to a national Gay effort on AIDS begun last August by the Dallas Forum on AIDS, GRNL is calling on its membership and the entire Lesbian and Gay community to immediately contact congressional representatives, asking them for more federal research funding for the AIDS crisis. They advise that contacting incumbants during the October campaign period will be particularly effective.

Medical information concerning AIDS is available from the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Box 274, 132 W. 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

■

CONSTITUTING CONVENTION FOR RELIGIOUS LESBIAN/GAYS TO BE HELD IN ATLANTA, NOV. 11-14

ATLANTA – A constituting convention for an organization tentatively titled the North American Lesbian/Gay Religious Congress has been set for Atlanta from November 11-14.

An interim planning committee of 15 persons from various denominations determined the location, a delegate fee structure, workshop topics, a proposed agenda of 16 items, and provisions ensuring wider representation of non-Christian and unaffiliated believers and religious groups at a meeting in Atlanta last August.

This planning committee, established by an American Conference of Lesbian/Gay Christians (ACLGC) held in Washington, D.C. last May, selected the Atlanta site because "it is a transportation hub and facilities have already been made available." In addition the planners noted that "four major Lesbian/Gay religious leaders are based in Atlanta."

Frank Scheuren, international president of Dignity, Inc. the Catholic Lesbian/Gay organization, was selected as the local coordinator and contact person for the Congress. The Religious Council for the Advancement of Gays and Lesbians in Atlanta is expected to host the November meeting. Scheuren, along with Dr. James Tinney of Washington, D.C. and Sharon Owens of Philadelphia, will serve as interim credentialing sponsors of the congress and the ACLGC.

Task Forces were set up to do some preliminary work on various topics including Gay ministers and ministry, educational resources and strategies, structure, financial matters, "-isms," political action and liturgy.

A preliminary agenda was also set, encompassing some of these same concerns. Both the name of the continuing organization and its on-going structure will be major matters to be considered, as well as means of communicating through some type of publication.

Those desiring more information should contact: North American Lesbian/Gay Religious Congress, Box 53156, Atlanta, GA 30355, Phone: (404) 875-4348.

■

NGTF WASHINGTON OFFICE RELAYS CLARIFICATION OF D.O.E. POLICY

The Department of Energy has clarified its 'access authorization' policy regarding homosexuals and, despite previous reports, the new policy does not exclude Gay men and Lesbians from security clearance.

Mel Boozer, Director of NGTF's Washington D.C. office, stated, "The rationale of the security clearance policy is that the Department of Energy wants to see if homosexuality has any bearing on a person's ability to protect the national security. But homosexuality *per se* will not be a factor for denial of clearance for an openly gay person. The new D.O.E. regulation denies clearance to classified documents and security information only for those people who have knowingly and actively tried to hide their sexual orientation. It in effect encourages openness."

In a letter to the Department of Energy, Boozer asked for specific clarification of the policy. Tom Isaacs, responding for Director Ralph Caudle of the Office of Safeguards and Security for Defense Programs, confirmed that only those individuals who are so preoccupied with being closeted that they might compromise themselves to hide their sexual orientation would be subject to a hearing for clearance review. This clarification would also apply to heterosexuals, who might be furtively concealing an extra-marital affair from a husband or wife, and therefore be subject to a "compromise of integrity."

■

MARCH AND CONFERENCE SLATED FOR WASHINGTON

A second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and a national Lesbian/Gay strategy conference has been scheduled for April 23-27, 1983. The newly formed National Activists' Union of Gays and Lesbians (NAUGL) is planning the march and conference to stimulate grassroots community organizing and bring three demands to the nation's capitol: the passage of a comprehensive Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, the defeat of the "Family Protection Act," and the reversal of

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Clergy Credentials & Concerns Committee

NEW DIRECTION
by Larry Uhrig

Chair, Clergy, Credentials and Concerns Committee

We have turned the corner and headed in a new direction. In a very real sense the Credentials Committee has headed off in a new direction. This new direction represents a change from our former position which I would characterize as one of having nothing to do with student clergy. We, along with the rest of the Fellowship, left the student clergy to their pastors and other local officials. The problem is that no one was giving any consistent direction and there were/are no uniform programs of training. A student clergyperson did not know what to expect.

The new direction can best be expressed as a priority concern for the nurture, guidance and training of student clergy. To assist in achieving this goal the C.C.C.C. has formed a third sub-committee. This sub-committee on Student Clergy is chaired by the Rev. Claudia Vierra of MCC Boise, Idaho. It is the goal of the sub-committee and the full C.C.C.C. to provide our UFMCC student clergy with care, nurture and sound academic advice with regard to their education and qualifications. The following outline of our 1983 testing procedure will probably best demonstrate what I mean by our new direction and structure. In looking at the 1983 Proficiency Exams we asked ourselves, "Just what did we want to know from our Students?" The answer was not hard to find. We wanted to know that the student has some basic understanding and knowledge of what we consider to be a fundamental body of knowledge. Therefore our concern became, "How can we help them get this knowledge?" The 1983 Study Guide will be a four part set of test questions. These *objective* questions will seek to cover the basic knowledge one should have in the area of Bible Content, History of Christian Thought, UFMCC Polity and Worship and Practics. There will be a couple hundred questions in each section of the test. The exams themselves will be selected questions from the Study Guide. The Study Guide then becomes a learning instrument which guides the student in the directions we feel are helpful for future ministry. The process of study and testing then becomes de-mystified and less of a guessing game as to what one should study and know.

We have also sought to eliminate the time lag between testing and finding out whether we passed. Therefore we will be offering the test at the May-June District Conference in each district just prior to the meeting of the District Review Committee. Since the test will be objective in nature, the proctor, which will be the C.C.C.C. member of the DRC will grade each test section after it is completed. The student will find out at once whether they passed or failed. Students who pass and are intending to appear before the DRC may do so. This will also save much money in postage. Our goal is to be better stewards of all of our resources. We believe that the Fellowship's greatest resource is our student clergy. It is time we treated them as valued people who hold the future of the work God has given us in their hands.

Up-date information on all application and testing procedures is being sent to all churches, clergy, district coordinators, etc. in every current Fellowship mailing. It is most important that we pass this information around to all of our people.

As a part of creating good channels of communication the Student Clergy Subcommittee is in the process of creating a current UFMCC list of student clergy in order for us to directly contact our students with important information. At the present there does not exist in any form a student clergy list in UFMCC.

I think that it is fair to say that the primary concern the members of the C.C.C.C. have is for our own students. In the past year there have been many personnel problems with far too many clergy and we have sought to reach out and assist. Too often our reaching out to clergy in trouble, sometimes serious legal trouble, is received with a "It's none of your business" attitude. We have yet to create structures for caring and yet some new and important ideas and plans are appearing. This is a time of much change and we approach the change in a spirit of hope. Hope and trust that God is doing great things to equip us for God's purposes in our future ministry. We must now give serious attention to being good and faithful stewards of our resources and this means especially our people resources. We need to pastor each other and we also need to discipline one another. Too many times in the past have we seen congregations suffer because no one would speak up regarding serious problems. We have a judicial system and we must be able to use it and make it work. We must learn to say NO in love. As we have been concerned in the past about congregations abusing their clergy, so we must also be concerned about clergy abusing their congregations. As we give guidance and training so we give "tough love." A firm word of advice: Pulpit committees, please look into why clergy left their former congregations before you call them. Too many times in recent years we have exported destruction in order to get it off our own door step.

Finally, as we move into new directions and new procedures, we the Credentials Committee need your input, thoughts, counsel and advice. For the bottom line is that you are shaping the future. We will offer our gifts and to do so we need yours.

NEWS continued from page 6

anti-Gay/Lesbian immigration policies.

Members of the NAUGL steering committee meeting at the Dallas Gay Leadership Conference decided to set a date for the national action after judging the response of conference participants to be favorable. Preliminary plans for the march have actually been under way since NAUGL's July conference in Washington and local organizing has already begun in several cities.

As in the case of the first Lesbian/Gay march on Washington in 1979, some political figures in the community express scepticism about mass actions. Their reservations now, as then, involve doubts about drawing a significant turnout and concern about the ability of such demonstrations to influence Congress and/or the Administration.

However, NAUGL organizers felt that the greater weight should be placed on the potential benefit to be derived for the Lesbian/Gay movement itself through this national convocation. They hope to see the march and conference participants galvanized into a permanent network of activists working in local NAUGL chapters and other existing organizations on several projects, including a continued campaign for the march demands and an effort to delineate a comprehensive strategy for sexual law reform. ■

Four prominent Americans have recently been added to the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Advisory Committee: Midge Costanza, a former Presidential Aid to Jimmy Carter; Caesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers; The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, a prominent religious leader long involved in the peace movement; and Paul E. Winfield, noted Black actor. They join such notables as feminist Gloria Steinam, singer and activist Joan Baez, and actor Mike Farrell of "M.A.S.H." ■

Tinney excommunicated by Church of God in Christ

Three days prior to the beginning of Washington D.C.'s first Lesbian/Gay revival, Dr. James S. Tinney, leading Pentecostal scholar and organizer of the event, was formally excommunicated by Bishop Samuel Kelsey, bishop of the Washington diocese of the Church of God in Christ.

The expulsion came as somewhat of a surprise to many observers, since Tinney had openly announced his homosexuality in 1979, and had organized a nation-wide Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights as a vehicle for promoting acceptance of practicing Lesbian/Gay Christians throughout his own denomination and the entire Pentecostal movement. Since that time, Tinney has traveled coast-to-coast speaking on behalf of Lesbian/Gay Christians publicly and engaging in dialogue with many Pentecostal church leaders.

"The wide publicity of the Lesbian/Gay revival evidently became too much of an embarrassment to Bishop Kelsey, who told me that I was bringing reproach upon the church," Tinney said. Kelsey confirmed that he had received many calls, including some from bishops as far west as Oregon, complaining about the Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights.

"As long as I appeared to be a lone voice without a following, the church seemed content to ignore me," Tinney stated. "But as both the local chapter and the national organization attracted more and more persons, and as churches of other denominations kept offering me opportunities to express my views, and as the media continued reporting the phenomenon of Gay Pentecostals, the church felt that this cause was getting out of control."

The coalition now has more than 1,000 members, representing scores of Pentecostal denominations. Locally, the city-wide revival was the first of its kind to be held anywhere; and news of the revival was carried in all of the city's major white and Black newspapers, as well as on television and radio.

It was also the first time any gospel radio station in the nation had carried Gay advertising.. It was the first time any Black newspaper had agreed to print advertising with the words "Lesbian/Gay."

Posters and flyers were also circulated in local Pentecostal congregations, although most were reportedly confiscated by deacons after they were distributed.

Kelsey called a special meeting of church trustees and it was agreed at that meeting to expel Tinney. When Tinney arrived for worship services the next Sunday morning, he was met at the door by trustees and ushered into the church office. After lengthy discussions with both the trustees and Kelsey, Tinney was informed that he was being "turned out of the church" and would not be permitted to speak, testify, receive Holy Communion, or otherwise participate in any church activity except as an observer. Kelsey also announced the excommunication in a business meeting of the members, and a public notice of the expulsion will be published throughout the nation in the denominational newspaper serving the 3 million members of the Church of God in Christ.

Tinney reminded Kelsey and the trustees that Pentecostal churches have always been known for having disproportionately high numbers of overtly Gay musicians and members. "I told him that many clergy in his own diocese were frequently seen at Gay bars and that I was personally counseling members of his own church who had never felt comfortable about discussing their sexual orientation with him."

"He told me that he had heard rumors of other homosexual clergy and members, but that these were only rumors, and that many of them were repentant, while I was openly announcing my homosexuality," Tinney said.

"The trouble with you is that you have no shame," Kelsey told Tinney.

Tinney responded by accusing the bishop of rewarding dishonesty and punishing him because of his honesty in telling the truth about himself. "You are punishing me for attempting to minister to Lesbians and Gay men whom you yourself will likely never be able to reach or understand," said Tinney.

The act of excommunication is seldom practiced by Pentecostals today, although in the early years of the religion's history it was more frequent. A leading ecumenical charismatic magazine, titled LOGOS JOURNAL, had editorially called for Tinney's removal from Pentecostalism two years ago, but each Pentecostal denomination conducts its own affairs independently, and the Church of God in Christ – the nation's largest Black Pentecostal denomination – had not responded previously to the excommunication call.

There is no course of appeal for Tinney, whom ETERNITY magazine once listed as one of the 50 most influential evangelical thinkers in the world. The leading scholar on Black Pentecostalism, Tinney has spoken before such groups as the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Pentecostal Studies, of which he is a member. Last year he gave a keynote address to the Society for the Study of Black Religion, to which he also belongs. It is a prestigious organization of most Black theologians and historians and has membership by invitation only.

Tinney, who has published more articles on Black Pentecostalism than any other person, was the author of a book about the very bishop who expelled him. It was published by the church last year and is titled: PENTECOSTAL PIONEER AND BISHOP, SAMUEL KELSEY.

Tinney is also associate professor of journalism at Howard University.

classifieds

Samaritan Education Center desperately needs a calculator. If anyone can donate one contact SEC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (213) 464-5100. (Also . . . we need $$$!

If you are using a computer to run your office, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at MCC Toronto, 230 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M55 2R4.

Do you have choir robes to sell? Need hymnals? Advertise in JOURNEY'S CLASSIFIEDS. Remember that JOURNEY also has display advertising.

Rates for JOURNEY'S CLASSIFIEDS are 50 cents per line. All orders must be prepaid and RECEIVED no later than the fifth of the month. Remember that JOURNEY'S CLASSIFIEDS are for church needs advertising only!

Each 2 lines equals one line set in type. Leave spaces between words and after punctuation. Checks to UFMCC, JOURNEY

Department of Christian Social Action

by R. Adam DeBaugh

Chair, Department of Christian Social Action

The Congressional elections in the United States this month are very important for the future of the United States of America. The off year elections (the one national election year between Presidential elections) are historically thought of being a referendum on the President's first two years in office. 1982 is especially important because the 1980 elections were such a triumph for conservative and reactionary politicians. Now the people have a chance to pass judgment on how the conservative policies of the Reagan Administration and the New Right Wing congress have worked.

It is crucial for people of faith to be actively involved in this election, both voting on Election Day and being active in the campaigns of candidates who represent best our positions on the issues. For members of the UFMCC it is very important to be involved in order to counteract the pernicious influence of right wing Christians like the Moral Majority. They are determined to use social issues, to which we feel called by the gospel to mandate, to gain political power in this country regardless of what their policies do to people.

There have been bright spots in the Congress that is ending this year: on the gay rights front we have had a record number of co-sponsors to Lesbian and Gay civil rights legislation in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Fifty nine members of the House signed on as co-sponsors this year and 7 senators are co-sponsors. The record high numbers came at a time when the ACLU was predicting we wouldn't be able to get even half of the previous record number of co-sponsors (55 in the last congress) because of the more conservative nature of this congress. The success in gaining co-sponsors is as much a tribute to the organizing work of the GRNL as it is to the courage of the members of the House and Senate who stood up to be counted for Lesbian and Gay civil rights. Those members of Congress who supported us must in turn be supported by us at the polls.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Department of Christian Social Action has begun publishing the long awaited, "Let's Do the Gospel Series," a series of hand books on specific ministries enabling local congregations to *do* social action rather than just talking about it.

The first of this series, published in September is, "Burn-Out: 'Come to me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest'," and explains what burn-out is, how to prevent it and how to cure it. So many active church leaders, both clergy and lay, are prone to burning out that this is a much needed resource. "Burn-out" is available at a cost of $2.00.

The second in the series is,"Writing to Congress: 'Prophesy against the shepherds of Israel'," and explains how best to influence your legislators by letter and includes a bible study on the Christian's responsibility to lobbying. "Writing to Congress. . ." sells for $1.00.

The third in the series is, "Coming Out!: 'And the Truth Shall Make You Free' " which sells for two dollars and explains the stages of coming out of one's closet and includes an extensive Bible study on the subject.

Future issues of the series will deal with the school prayer issue, ministry to the deaf, ministry to alcoholics, feeding the hungry, the draft and conscientious objection, and many other areas of ministry.

Copies of all issues of the Let's Do the Gospel Series may be obtained from the Department of Christian Social Action, care of Adam DeBaugh, 8301 - 16th Street, Suite 201, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301-585-3330.

WORLD HUNGER TASK FORCE

As a result of a resolution passed by General Conference in Houston, Texas last year, the Department of Christian Social Action has established a task force on world hunger. The task force is made up of Sherre Boothman, Rockville, MD; the Rev. Bonnie Daniel, Colorado Springs, CO; the Rev. Robert Galloway, Waterloo, IA; the Rev. Sam Edelman, Fayetteville, AR; the Rev. Sky Anderson, San Jose, CA; Eugene P. Barton, Columbus, OH; Sherrie Zimbelman, Chicago, IL; the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Los Angeles, CA; R. Adam DeBaugh, Silver Spring, MD.

Since there is no money for the operation of the task force, meetings are being held by mail, which is a cumbersome and time consuming process. But there is movement and plans are in the works for a publication soon.

The task force would like to solicit two things from local congregations: first, please let us know about anything you are doing in the area of feeding the hungry, both at home and abroad. Secondly, please let us know any areas you think the Fellowship should become involved in and suggestion of how the Fellowship can best use its resources for this important issue. Please send all correspondence to R. Adam DeBaugh at the above address.

University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Registration Fees:

$65.00 Must Be Received By February 28th, 1983

$75.00 After February 28th, 1983 Must Be Received By May 31, 1983

$40.00 for World Church Extension and Toronto MCC Participants. Must Be Received By May 31st, 1983

Registration Begins November 15th. Check Your Local Church Office For Forms.

Books — a review
by nancy wilson

NICE JEWISH GIRLS, A LESBIAN ANTHOLOGY

My senior year in high school was important in lots of ways, but there was always one painful event that I alternately remember and like to forget. I grew up one of very few white anglo-saxon Protestants in a largely Catholic and Jewish neighborhood and school. I went to church in another town, and sometimes longed to bring those two worlds more closely together. My best friend, Carole, was Jewish, and one evening I asked her to come with me to a Methodist Youth Fellowship potluck, where we were discussing our future plans. The evening was pretty uneventful until the new, young assistant pastor started sharing some anecdotes. Suddenly my ears perked up as I heard him telling the story of the conductor Bruno Walter, who, after conducting Bach's St. Matthew's Passion declared about Jesus, "Truly, this man was the Son of God." The Pastor guffawed and said "Bach could even convert a *Jew*!" Now, it wasn't only the subject of the conversion of the Jews that bothered me -- even more, it was the tone of his voice, the little sneer in the word "Jew." I froze, and somehow Carole and I left, in a stunned silence. I don't remember what I said to her after her first (and I assume last) visit to a Christian church. I was too wrapped up in my own embarrassment and feelings of helplessness. I was angry -- why, I had never heard even a hint of anti-Semitism at my very nice, liberal church! How unfair that the *only* time I overheard it had to be the time I brought my best friend, my Jewish friend, to church. It was years before it dawned on me that perhaps it was Carole's presence that awakened me to the anti-Semitism. Perhaps it had always been there all along and I had never been forced to hear it. I only heard it when it finally hurt my best friend.

Reading anthologies is not always a pleasant task. Frequently, it seems, an editor has a few good ideas that he or she then packs with a lot of excess materials to make into an "anthology." Such is NOT the case with *"Nice Jewish Girls, A Lesbian Anthology"* edited by Evelyn Torton Beck, published by Persephone Press.

The book covers an incredible range of subjects related to Jewishness and Lesbianism. To quote the editor, "Jewish invisibility is a symptom of anti-Semitism as sure as Lesbian invisibility is a symptom of homophobia . . . if I say that Judaism is more than a religion, as Lesbianism is more than a sexual preference, I begin to tap the complexity."

Subjects covered include anti-Semitism in the Lesbian/Feminist movement; the cultural and racial diversity of Jewish Lesbians; perspectives on the Holocaust; Zionism and Anti-Zionism among Jewish Lesbians; homophobia and misogyny among Jews; and subtle and not so subtle anti-Semitism in some Christian feminist literature.

This book was a "coming out" experience for many of the authors as *Jewish* Lesbians. I was particularly moved by Adrienne Rich's article, "Split at the Root." Adrienne Rich is a Lesbian feminist poet who in this essay attempts to trace the journey of her recovery of a Jewish identity. She says, "Sometimes I feel I have seen too long from too many disconnected angles: white, Jewish, anti-Semite, racist, anti-racist, once-married, Lesbian, middle-class, feminist, exmatriate Southerner, split at the root: that I will never bring them whole . . . . Yet we can't wait for the undamaged to make our connections for us; we can't wait to speak until we are wholly clear and righteous. There is no purity, and, in our lifetimes, no end to this process." Her understanding of her journey reminds me so much of my own journey as a Lesbian, Christian feminist. We can't wait for others, more "pure," more "object" than ourselves to write *our* story. Hers is a sure testimony to the power of unfolding truth. The most painful part of the book for me was reading two articles that appeared in the Appendix: "Blaming the Jews for the Birth of Patriarchy" by Judith Plaskow, and "Blaming the Jews for the Death of the Goddess" by Annette Daum. Both these authors made important critiques of Christian feminist literature that dumps the whole sin of sexism on *Judaism*. They correctly point out the anti-Semitism in that dumping. In some Christian feminist critiques, the Old Testament is misogynist and Jesus is the first feminist. That comes off sounding like the theory of the "God of Wrath" of the Old Testament versus the "God of Love" of the New Testament, an ancient, dualistic, anti-Semitic Christian heresy known as Marcionism.

Anti-Semitism is not something we talk about very much in M.C.C. But the hard truth is that it is a part of our heritage as Christians, and it persists in every culture and every age. In the wake of the Beirut massacre, and world-wide escalation of anti-Semitic violence, this is a painful, difficult and threatening time for Jews everywhere. Just as we all grew up learning racism, sexism and heterosexuality, all of us grew up with overt or covert anti-Semitic misinformation and prejudice. All of us are children of the Holocaust. How we choose to face up to that and learn from that is part of what will shape the future for Jewish-Christian relationships and the future of the world.

I commend this book to all MCC'rs as a joyous experience of the struggle of some very incredible women with identity, self-acceptance and liberation. It is also a challenge to liberated Christians, gay and straight, to face our responsibility to clean up our act. Enjoy!

CREATIVE UFMCC PLANNING APPROACH LAUNCHED

A few months ago, the Board of Elders took a challenging and creative approach to dealing with issues and concerns affecting financial and administrative planning for our Fellowship. Responding to the realities of these difficult and complex challenges echoed in the face of economically harsh, restrictive and sometimes seemingly bleak conditions, the Research and Development Council (RDC) was formed.

The RDC is a team, composed of dedicated MCC Members from various churches and with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, whose purpose is to analyze Fellowship administrative and financial concerns and to formulate creative solutions to be presented to the Board of Elders.

The Council recently held its first series of meetings in Southern California, September 4-6. During these meetings a

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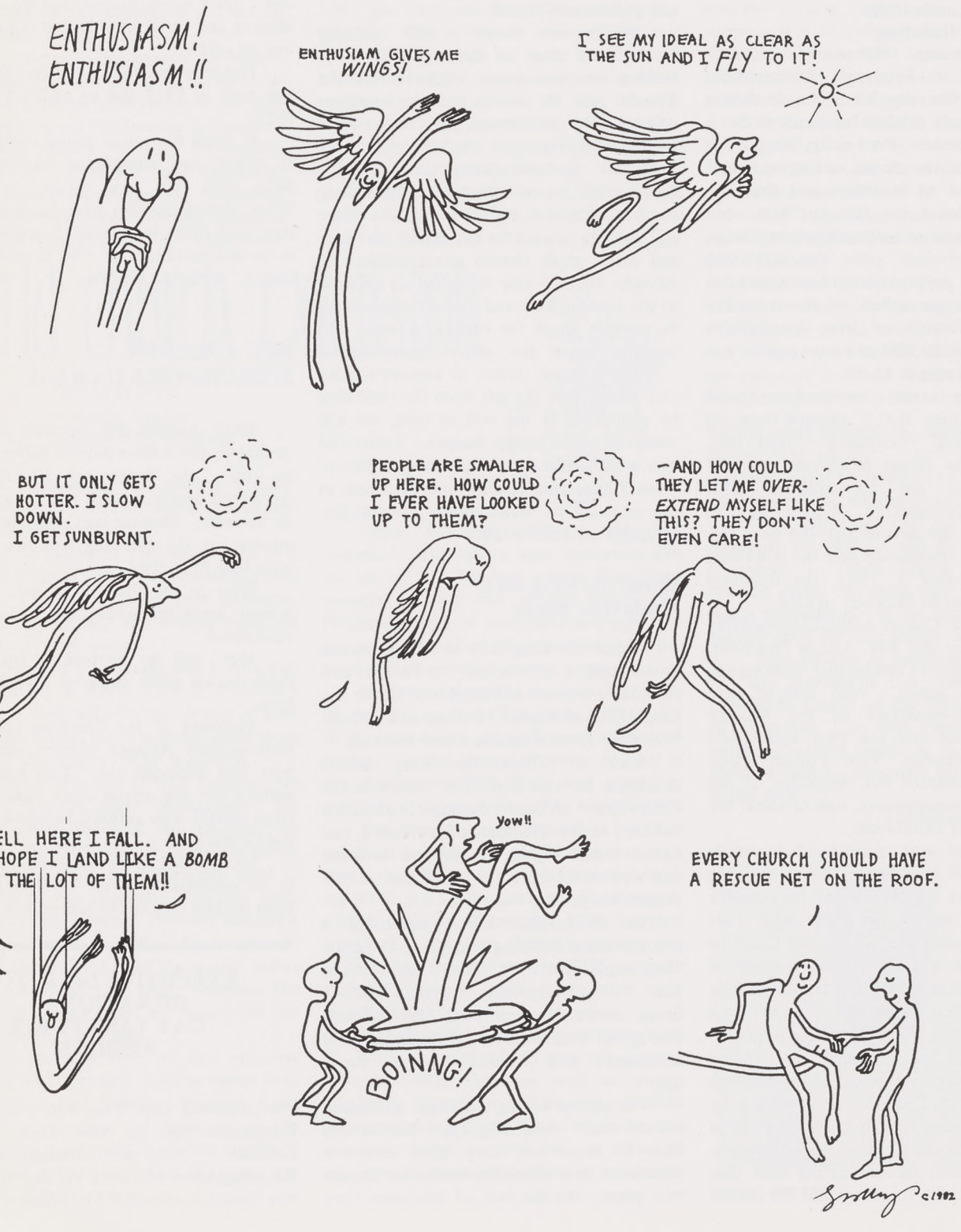
Lifelines

by Jean Gralley

BURNOUT: THE ICARUS SYNDROME


ENTHUSIASM! ENTHUSIASM!!
ENTHUSIAM GIVES ME WINGS!
I SEE MY IDEAL AS CLEAR AS THE SUN AND I FLY TO IT!
BUT IT ONLY GETS HOTTER. I SLOW DOWN. I GET SUNBURNT.
PEOPLE ARE SMALLER UP HERE. HOW COULD I EVER HAVE LOOKED UP TO THEM?
—AND HOW COULD THEY LET ME OVER-EXTEND MYSELF LIKE THIS? THEY DON'T EVEN CARE!
WELL HERE I FALL. AND I HOPE I LAND LIKE A BOMB ON THE LOT OF THEM!!
yow!!
BOINNG!
EVERY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE A RESCUE NET ON THE ROOF.
©1982

fellowship news

our journey

MCC Ft. Lauderdale Buys New Building

After having celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in February, Metropolitan Community Church of Fort Lauderdale is busy once again celebrating its move into a new church home. On Friday, August 20, the officers of the church, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors and the congregation, closed on the purchase consisting of an acre of land and two buildings. The total purchase price was $315,000 balloon note payment due 14 months after closing, and the seller of the property (Memorial Church of Fort Lauderdale) taking back $200,000 in a mortgage to run twenty-nine years at 11.5%.

Since the former owner had not found suitable facilities, M.C.C. allowed them 30 days additional occupancy - rent free. Therefore, the actual move into the new facilities was not accomplished until Saturday, September 25. Worship services were held in the new church the next day with 208 in attendance and the following Sunday, October 3, 1982, the buildings were dedicated to the glory of God.

Rev. Elder Charles Arehart representing the Fellowship and Rev. Arthur Fleschner, Southeast District Coordinator, were among the honored guests. Also present were official representatives of the County Sheriff's Office and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Two County Commissioners accepted our invitation, as did two City Commissioners, one of them the Mayor of Fort Lauderdale.

The Lord was truly good to us in helping us sell our former church building ten days after closing on our new church home. For almost ten years MCC Fort Lauderdale called 1127 S.W. 2nd Court its home. There was a crisis the summer of 1975 when financially the church almost lost its home. Through the generous support of two of its members who personally carried the mortgage, the building was saved. The new owner of the building is the Holiness Temple from Jamaica by way of New Jersey. The church had been purchased in 1972 for approximately $25,000 (church records dating back that far aren't all that accurate) and the recent sale price was $79,000.

MCC's new home is still centrally located and close to the major highways leading to downtown Fort Lauderdale. The 30 year old church building has three offices, four bathrooms, two social halls, plenty of storage, and a sanctuary that can hold 300. Located directly next door is a four bedroom two bath house with a living room, dining area and kitchen. The house will initially be used for committee meetings and other small church group gatherings. Already MCC is able to fulfill its promise to the Lesbian/Gay and straight community to provide space for offices, storage, and meeting space for other organizations.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that all we have is a gift from God and that by remaining in the will of God, we will continue to be richly blessed. Come and visit with us and share the love and spirit of Jesus Christ that is first and foremost in the ministry of Metropolitan Community Church Fort Lauderdale.

Christ the King MCC Finds New Home

Christ the King MCC in Oklahoma has found itself a new home. In June of this year, the members and friends of Christ the King MCC celebrated 10 years as a church. Now they are celebrating a new building.

Two of Christ the King MCC's members, Beverly and "Doc" were in the Fellowship Offices during September. Beverly, as the Treasurer of the Board, had signed initial papers on the new building and wanted to share the joy of their whole church body.

In 1973, the church purchased a grocery store building and made it home. The people painted it, fixed it up and then paid the building off. Early in 1980 a drunk driver drove through the building. The group decided after prayer and careful assessment that it was time to move out.

For almost a year, they held services in a local club. Realizing again that it was time to move on, they then rented a storefront in a shopping center for almost two years. At the end of this time they found themselves outgrowing the seating capacity of the building. For three months they have worked to buy their new home. They expect to be in their new building of about 25,000 square feet by November 1st.

Local ordinances seemed to be in the way of Christ the King MCC ever using the new property. Churches are required by local zoning laws to have 44,000 square feet. After much prayer, and the work of diligent and caring people that requirement was set aside.

The property consists of two buildings, one built in 1917 and an addition built in 1955.

In April the group found itself behind in tithes and attendance had dropped. Since then they have caught up on all tithes, average Sunday attendance is 65 and they have taken in at least 15 new members in the last two months. "We're really going places," reflected Beverly.

MCC ATLANTA SUFFERS FIRE DAMAGE

MCC Atlanta has become the 17th church in the Fellowship to suffer damage by fire. On September 19, 1982 the converted movie theatre was set ablaze by an arsonist. Damage was restricted to the interior of the building and fire fighters were able to control it.

Prior to the fire, the church had had several break-ins where the building was vandalized.

MCC will be meeting at Druid Hills Presbyterian while clean-up activities continue.

Members of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta offered moral support and financial aid. This was a turn around for the group since they are the same people who refused to admit MCC to the Council.

MCC is not the only church in Atlanta to be vandalized. Some 77 churches have been broken into in the last month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE RESIGNS

The National Gay Task Force Executive Committee met in New York City on October 1, 1982 and officially accepted the resignation of Lucia Valeska as Executive Director, effective November 1, 1982.

television special update

GOD, GAYS & THE GOSPEL: THIS IS *OUR* STORY

The production of the Fellowship's one hour television special, entitled "GOD, GAYS, AND THE GOSPEL: THIS IS *OUR* STORY," will be nearly finished as you read this article.

The last of the taping took place in Los Angeles during October where the musical portions and the segment on women in the ministry were taped. This material will be cut together with the material shot at the 10th General Conference in Houston, Texas; the history of the Fellowship assembled in Vancouver; and additional material taped in San Francisco, California, to make the final show. Post production (editing) is taking place in Vancouver, B.C. during November and December, aiming for a finished product by January 1983.

According to Mary Anne McEwen, President of Forward Focus Productions Ltd. (the company hired to produce the special), "The material is exciting and provocative enough to spark network or pay-TV interest, at least in the Canadian market, which is one of the reasons a documentary film style has been chosen. And I wouldn't be surprised if one of the major U.S. networks picks it up."

Greg Cutts, co-producer of the show, commented that ,"In order to attract and keep the attention of both a straight and Lesbian/Gay audience the program will be informative, interesting, entertaining, and unbiased. A positive view of UFMCC done in a documentary style is an appropriate way to tell the story of the church and the message that God's love is for all people. It is an unconvential and beautiful message . . . that God loves homosexuals and that it is not impossible nor incompatible to be both gay and Christian."

The Reverend Troy D. Perry is excited and hopeful about the upcoming TV special. "It's our time to tell the world that homosexuals are the children of God, too . . . and that's something that many Lesbians and Gays forget and many straights simply don't believe."

Perry continued, "This TV special will tell the story of the struggle of Lesbians and Gay men in our society, as seen through *our* history, showing the determination of our members to bring about change in our surroundings as we seek to lead full lives. We are going to show the world that we are people, not perverts. And we will share this message of hope with a possible viewing audience of 100 million people."

"The only thing that will slow up the airing of our special will be the shortage of money to finish paying for the production costs. We must raise those needed funds immediately if we are to have the special aired by late March or early April.

"This air-date is important to precede the May meeting in San Francisco of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches. At this meeting the final decision will be made as to whether the UFMCC will be accepted for membership in the NCC.

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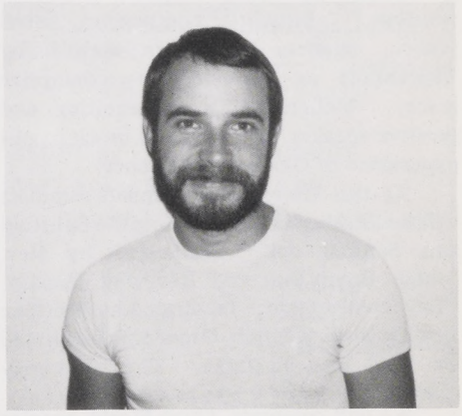

GREG CUTTS

world church extension

"REACH OUT"
by Kathy Sawyer
Lay Minister MCC Pomona

The Fellowship is growing rapidly. Everyone of us holds an important part in its growth and success.

One of the most important jobs in a Christian's life is sharing the news and love of Jesus Christ. Opening new churches, reaching out to help and sharing with one another are other ways.

As most of you know, our Fellowship is supporting a World Church Extension Program. Even with the leadership of Rev. Elder Jean White, there is much work to be done and the support of all is needed.

About a year ago at MCC Pomona, we started a Program called "Reach Out." We saw the need, financial and spiritual, to help. The Fellowship World Church Extension Program is in financial need as are many of our churches. At our 1981 Congregational Meeting, Pomona became a church dedicated to WCE. We bought 60 globe banks and a map of the world. After we identified all the MCC churches the world over on the map, we passed out the globe banks to everyone.

Three months later we had our first (Special) WCE Sunday. All the banks were brought back that Sunday. We blessed the banks, the program and most of all the people working for WCE. When the WCE Committee started counting the coin, we couldn't believe our eyes.

There was over $700 in coin and currency. This was a very important day for all of us. We had waited three long months to find out if the Reach Out Program would be successful and now, we knew exactly what God wanted us to do. So many great things started happening.

We have been able to send thousands of dollars to the Fellowship Offices for WCE. God has blessed us with special visitors, a good group of people to lead in the Building Search Drive and most important a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

The program is the first of its kind but need not be the last. God has shown us a way to end the financial problem surrounding WCE, just by dropping a little change in a bank. Just for an example, if 65 churches collected $200 each every 3 months, we could send the Fellowship WCE program $52,000 per year. Now, that's what I call meeting the budget!

The financial need isn't all there is to it. We have been able to give information to other MCC churches, such as, phone numbers, directions, addresses, worship hours and much more. When we move into our new church we will have an office of our own, in hopes of working more closely

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CONFERENCE

by Hasani Gough
General Conference Coordinator

"Many Gifts, One Spirit" is the theme of General Conference XI to be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the University of Toronto. For the first time, General Conference is being held in July. The Conference dates are July 11 - 17, 1983. Future General Conferences will continue to be held in July. Although in the United States the first part of August is a time when school is out, in Australia schools are reopening. July is therefore a more inclusive time of the year for all of our sisters and brothers to be able to attend General Conference.

The featured speaker for General Conference will be Dr. Virginia R. Mollenkott. Mollenkott will address the General Conference in a presentation entitled, "Biblical Imagery of God as Female -- and Why It Matters." She brings with her a belief in seeing God in all things and serving God in all activities. She believes in the integration of the human personality around a unifying center, and an awareness of humanity's interdependence.

Mollenkott will also facilitate a seminar entitled, "Women, Men and the Bible," which is the title of a book which she authored in 1977. The book calls for female-male equality through mutuality stressing that "Christian equality is never a matter of jockeying for the dominant position." Equality, compassion, social justice, oneness - all are viewed by Mollenkott as grounded in redemptive grace. Mollenkott is an exciting and positive speaker, who will add much to our experience of General Conference.

At this time, other planned seminars will be "Embodiment: Uniting the Spiritual and Sensual Self," facilitated by Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull and Rev. Jay Deacon, "Lay Involvement," facilitated by Ms. Jean Gralley and "Church Growth," facilitated by Rev. Don Eastman. The titles may change.

We will celebrate Third World peoples on Tuesday, July 12th, organized by Rev. Renee McCoy. McCoy offers her experience as a multi-talented leader within the Third World community and has a depth of understanding of her spiritual self that will make this an experience of celebration for all peoples, from the 8 a.m. Communion Service to the Evening Service at 7:30 p.m.

MCC Toronto, with Mr. Gary Chapman as local Conference Coordinator, has begun preparations for the arrival of sisters and brothers from around the world. Plans are being made to provide hospitality rooms at the University of Toronto and on a 24 hour basis at MCC Toronto's church building. Bus tours, streetcar tours and walking tours of Toronto and vicinity will be part of the offerings for the week of Conference.

A community dance has already been scheduled by the Lesbian and Gay community for the evening of Saturday, July 16th. Usual attendance at these dances is 2,500 people. The General Conference schedule will not conflict with this event.

The importance of this General Conference is accentuated by the fact that it is being held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. We are recognizing the diversity in unity that is UFMCC. As we are informed of more and more groups becoming a part of the Fellowship in countries beyond the United States, we are brought closer to a realization of our universality as a Christian people. We have been called by Christ to share the Good News with *all* nations. In Toronto, we will have yet another opportunity as a body - the body of Christ - to fulfill that call.

Registration for Conference and room registration for University dormitories will begin this month. Forms are being sent to local churches. Those who register for Conference early may register for $65.00. After February 28, 1983, Conference registration is $75.00 and must be RECEIVED in the UFMCC offices by no later than May 31, 1983.

Those who have not registered by that time may register at Conference at a cost of $75.00. To attend workshops, seminars, business meetings and Special Events you must be registered.

This Conference, pre-Conference reports will automatically be sent to *all* lay and clergy delegates and official observers. Any non-delegate who wants this packet may purchase it at the Conference Bookstore at the University of Toronto. Rooms at the University are limited. Single and double rooms are available. In the case of double rooms, individuals must secure their own roommates. Accomodations are in three dormitory buildings which will give us access to washers and dryers - an added advantage. The Conference Team is asking anyone who plans to attend with a child under 10 years old to please contact the Fellowship offices regarding University housing. Each form - Conference Registration and Room Registration - has carefully outlined information which can be retained for your records. A list of nearby hotels and their rates will also be included in the November mailing.

The Conference Management Team wants to thank everyone who took the time and energy to fill out and return the post-Conderence evaluation forms. They have been an invaluable source of information and affirmation as we began the preparations for General Conference XI, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

TV continued from page 13

"Having our point of view expressed nationally and publicly through our TV show before this historical meeting should be very influential in our favor.

"All in all, I believe this TV show is one of the most exciting and important projects the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has ever undertaken.

"In terms of Christian education and social action there is simply no other way to reach so many people. The media has been used against us so often in the past, it is time we used it ourselves to educate our enemies and reach out in God's love to our brothers and sisters everywhere," Perry said.

Black Lesbian, Gay Church Forms In Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A church predominantly composed of Black Lesbian and Gay Christians held its first formal worship service on Sunday, September 12, and heard Dr. James S. Tinney, recently excommunicated from the Church of God in Christ, refer to their spiritual pilgrimage as a "journey of faith."

Participants agreed to call the church Faith Temple, and Tinney will serve as its first pastor. While the congregation welcomes persons of all races, an official letter to prospective members and visitors described the congregation as "a Third World Lesbian/Gay Christian church."

To a large extent, the organization of Faith Temple is an outgrowth of two recent events: the expulsion of Tinney, who is a leading Pentecostal historian and theologian, as well as a Gay Christian activist, from his local church; and the first city-wide Lesbian/Gay revival, held from September 1-4. That revival attracted nearly 100 persons each night.

Organizers of the new Lesbian/Gay church say that they consider Faith Temple to be simply an extension of a "church" which has existed for 15 months – the Pentecostal Coalition for Human Rights (PCHR). While not formally a church structure, PCHR has conducted local meetings twice-monthly, although the format for such gatherings has not been primarily worship-centered. This local PCHR chapter is the only predominantly Black Lesbian/Gay Christian group in Washington, D.C.

Tinney says that while there are many kinds of churches in the Black community, "Faith Temple will worship in the tradition of those Black churches representing the masses – the grassroots community – which happen to be mostly Baptist and Pentecostal, but also include many Methodist churches as well. It will, however, open its doors to all people of all faiths."

He says that most persons, Black and white, Gay and "straight," are more comfortable "in free-flowing, somewhat informal, worship environments conducive to a lot of individualized expression and audience participation."

"The fastest-growing Black churches," Tinney claims, "whatever their denominational affiliation, are those which have embraced the charismatic movement."

Faith Temple will be meeting in the Calvary United Methodist Church in Washington. The phone number for more information is (202) 726-7499.

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variety of concerns, issues and ideas were examined. Topics ranged from brainstorming ways for helping the UFMCC Office in Los Angeles become a more administratively efficient and effective central, representative office for our international Fellowship, to exploring the feasibility and desireability for adopting or developing a pension plan for UFMCC clergy and Fellowship employees.

RDC members plan to next meet in San Francisco over the weekend of January 14-16, 1983, to again take up these, as well as other, important financial and administrative concerns of the Fellowship.

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WCE continued from page 13

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